

The Montana Historical Society presents

# Dammed if we do...



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**The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana History Conference**

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**October 16-18, 2008**

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**Glasgow and Fort Peck, Montana**

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## Dammed if we do...

The Montana History Conference is an annual, highly anticipated happening. This year—as we combine offerings with the 6th Annual Montana Preservation Conference—we will be exploring the heritage of the northeastern corner of the state. This locale was chosen, in part, because 2008 is being celebrated nationwide as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Deal. The building of the Fort Peck Dam was one of the largest and most significant

New Deal projects in the country. In addition to programming devoted to Depression-era Montana, conference sessions will investigate a wide array of topics ranging from the cultures of the Sioux and Assiniboiné peoples, to Montana's medical history, to “yellow journalism” along the Hi-Line. Join us for this exciting and enlightening conference—you don't want to miss the fun!



*Men and automobile in piece of construction pipe, ca. 1936 (MHS Photograph Archives, Fort Peck Dam Collection Box 1 F6 9)*

**Conference logistics:** Unless otherwise noted, all events on Thursday and Friday will be held at the Cottonwood Inn and Suites located on Highway 2 on the east end of Glasgow. On Saturday, buses will transport conference-goers to nearby Fort Peck for a variety of tours and site visits. If you are interested in carpooling possibilities, visit the conference page at [montanahistoricalociety.org](http://montanahistoricalociety.org).

A block of rooms is being held at the Cottonwood until **October**. To make a reservation phone 800-321-8213 or visit the web at <http://www.cottonwoodinn.net/>. **Be sure to mention the History Conference to receive the conference rate.** The Cottonwood Inn also maintains an adjacent RV Park for those wishing to camp. Other accommodations can be found by visiting <http://www.visitmt.com/> or phoning the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce at 406-228-2222.

**Academic credit for teachers:** Up to seventeen OPI Teacher Renewal Units are available for conference attendees. Teachers desiring renewal credits may obtain forms at the conference registration table.



Indicates a Montana Preservation Conference joint offering.

## Schedule (subject to change)

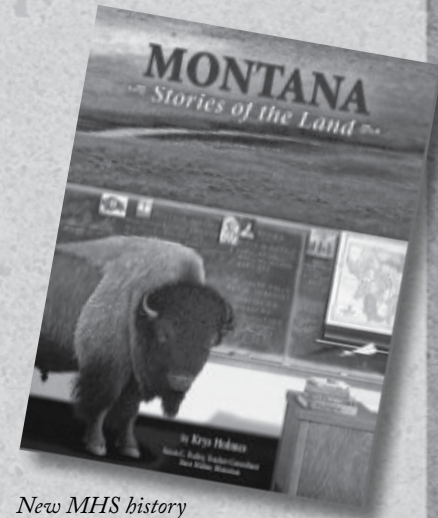
### Thursday, October 16

**7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Conference Registration**

**8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. MHS Museum Store**

**8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Workshops**

- **Educators Workshop:** Award-winning middle school history teacher Denise Heppner will share simple *Hands-on Montana History Lessons* that motivate and engage students. Veteran English teacher and Montana Heritage Project participant Renee Rassmussen will talk about how student research can result in significant payoffs in terms of *Forming Community Connections*. MHS Historical Specialist Martha Kohl will discuss the Society's spectacular new resource, the comprehensive textbook *Montana: Stories of the Land*.



*New MHS history textbook by Krys Holmes*

- **Preservation Workshop:** Susan West Montgomery, Maryland Association of Historic Preservation Commissions, Circuit Rider and Outreach Coordinator, will explore successful strategies for promoting your cause *When Preservation Gets Political*. Kate Hampton, Montana Preservation Alliance Most Endangered Places Program Director, will lead a discussion on approaches to *Preserving "Ugly."* Kate will be joined by Glacier National Park Historical Architect Lon Johnson, and MHS Reference Historian Zoe Ann Stoltz, who will share their perspectives on appreciating and preserving resources like 1960s architecture, trailer parks, and shopping malls. This workshop was made possible by a National Park Service "Preserve America" grant administered through the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.




- **Collections Care Workshop:** Become familiar with *Disaster Preparedness Basics for Archival Collections*. Learn the types of disasters or emergencies most likely to affect Montana's cultural institutions; the basic elements required in a good disaster plan; tools available to assist in preparing or updating a disaster response plan; and more. Presented by members of the State Historic Records Advisory Board.

**11:30 – 1:00 Lunch** – On your own (see conference packet for information on local eateries)

**1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshops**

- **Educators Workshop:** *Cultural Survival of the Fittest* by Curley Youpee. In compliance with Montana's constitutional mandate to teach Indian Education for All, Youpee, a member of the Lakota/Dakota Nation, will explain how tribal culture is an intricate whole which is woven with the finest fibers taken from laws, morals, knowledge, belief, custom, art, and other life-ways/life-forms.

-  **Preservation Workshop:** After federal agencies have consulted and still plan to destroy historic and prehistoric resources, they often seek ways to mitigate that loss to the community. Alan Stanfill, Senior Cultural Resource Compliance Manager with HDRI in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, will explore methods for *Creative Mitigation and Innovative Stewardship*. Securing funding for projects can be a daunting task! Roxann Lincoln, Grants Administrator for the State Historic Preservation Office, will share her experience finding *Preservation Grant Funding* with you. Bring your scenarios for brainstorming. This workshop was made possible by a National Park Service "Preserve America" grant administered through the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.



*Baby quilt, Bay Leaf pattern, 1932 (MHS Museum 1997.86.02, Gift of Jane Addy)*

- **Collections Care Workshop:** Join MHS Museum staff members Amanda Streeter Trum, Kendra Derrer, and Rowena Harrington to learn *Basic Preservation and Care of Historic Quilts and Clothing*. Speakers will provide instruction on current museum techniques and standards and demonstrate selected methods.



*Men posed with hooked bucket, 1936 (MHS Photograph Archives, Fort Peck Dam Collection Box 1 F6 9)*

- **Presence of the Past:** *Photographing Historic Sites*. MHS Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler will lead an expedition to two significant but now largely abandoned sites—the Glasgow Air Base and the town of St. Marie—where MHS photographer Tom Ferris will provide tips and insights on documenting historic resources. Bring your cameras. Space limited to 16 people.

**1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Meetings**

- **MHS Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting**, Job Service Meeting Room, 74 - 4th Street North
- **Museums Association of Montana Board of Directors Meeting**, Pioneer Museum, 816 US Highway 2 West
- **State Historical Records Advisory Board Meeting**, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, 23 US Highway 2 East

**4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**


- **Quilt Registration:** Bring in your quilt—historic or contemporary—and have it registered with the *Montana Historic Quilt Project*, part of a nationwide effort to record and preserve the traditions and legacy of quilting in this county.



5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

-  **Montana Certified Local Governments Meeting**

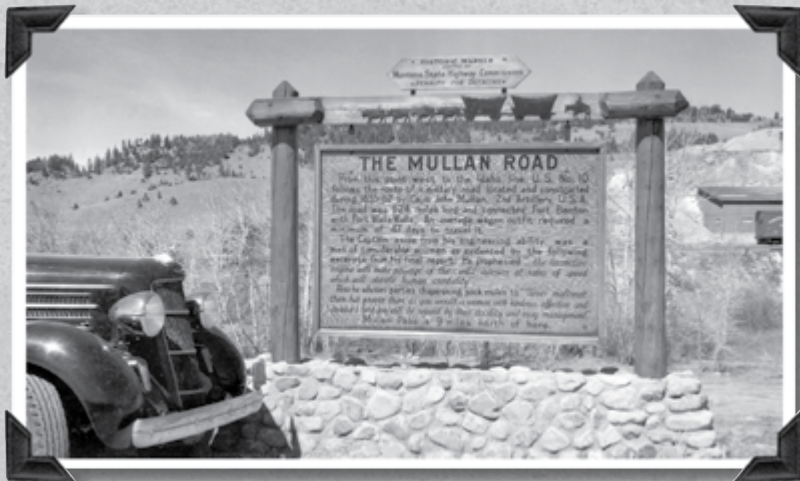
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Opening Program (free and open to the public)  
Evangelical Church, 152 Aberdeen (see map on page 14)

-  **Chere Juisto, Montana Preservation Alliance** Executive Director, will welcome attendees and invite participants to celebrate the cultural landscape of Montana's historic Hi-Line. Afterwards, Lois and Del Lonnquist will liven things up with *Fifty Cents an Hour*, their highly informative and highly entertaining musical tribute to the building of Fort Peck Dam. At the conclusion of the performance, venture over to the Pioneer Museum, 816 US Highway 2 West, for a dessert reception and tour of one of Valley County's premiere attractions. Hosted by the Pioneer Museum/Valley County Historical Society.

## Friday, October 17

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- Conference Registration**
- MHS Museum Store**



Mullan Road marker on US 12, ca. 1940  
(Montana Department of Transportation)

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast

- History on the Wayside.** Many Montanans were first introduced to the state's colorful history by roadside signs installed by the Montana Department of Transportation beginning in the 1930s. MDT Historian Jon Axline will share the background story of these markers that dot Treasure State roads.

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Museums Association of Montana Silent Auction  
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Plenary Session

- The Good Word:** MHS Director Richard Sims will present an overview of the past year and a glimpse at where we're headed in his annual *State of the Society Address*. Through editorials, front-page stories, and personal memories, retired teacher and MHS Volunteer Bonnie Bowler will examine the turmoil and antics involved in covering the news in *Myth, Fact, and Memory: Journalism in Northeastern Montana, 1918–1934*.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- To Picture a People:** MHS Museum Manager Bill Mercer will analyze the contributions made by Swiss artist Karl Bodmer to our understanding of early Montana history. Bodmer—who accompanied German explorer Prince Maximilian from 1832 through 1834—was one the first classically trained artists to create a visual record of *Life on the Upper Missouri*. In *Sitting Proud*, MHS Curator of Collections Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney will chronicle the career of portraitist Joe Scheuerle, who traveled the American West throughout the closing decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century producing colorful portraits of the region's first inhabitants.



"Eagle Chief, Assiniboine" by Joe Scheuerle, watercolor, 1914 (MHS Museum 2003.85.05, Gift of Bill and Pat Grierson)



## Schedule at a Glance

(unless otherwise noted all events are at the Cottonwood Inn,  
Highway 2 East)

### Thursday, October 16

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**7:30 – 1:30** Conference Registration

**8:00 – 11:30** Workshops

- *History Lessons, Community Connections, Stories of the Land*
- *When Preservation Gets Political and Preserving “Ugly”*
- *Disaster Preparedness Basics for Archival Collections*

**11:30 – 1:00** Lunch on your own

**1:00 – 4:30** Workshops

- *Cultural Survival of the Fittest*
- *Creative Mitigation and Preservation Grant Funding*
- *Basic Preservation and Care of Historic Quilts and Clothing*
- *Photographing Historic Sites*

**1:30 – 5:00** Meetings

- MHS Board of Trustees, Job Service Meeting Room, 74 - 4th Street North
- Museums Association of Montana, Pioneer Museum, 816 US Highway 2 West
- State Historical Records Advisory Board, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, 23 Highway 2 East

**4:30 – 6:30**

- Conference Registration
- Quilt registration (free and open to the public)

**5:00 – 6:30** Montana Certified Local Governments Meeting

**6:30 – 8:30** Opening Program (free and open to the public)

Starting at the Evangelical Church, 152 Aberdeen; moving to the Valley County Historical Society, 816 US Highway 2 West, at 7:30 p.m. for the reception.

### Friday, October 17

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**7:45 – 8:45** Breakfast – *History by the Wayside*

**9:00 – 10:15** *The Good Word*

**10:30 – 11:45** Concurrent sessions

- *To Picture a People*
- *Moveable Feast*
- *Law and Order*

**12:00 – 1:15** Lunch – *The Literary Word*

**1:30 – 2:45** Concurrent sessions

- *Native Healers*
- *Uncle Sam's New Deal*
- *Showcasing Student Scholars*

**3:00 – 4:15** Concurrent sessions

- *Constructing History*
- *Hard Deals and New Deals*
- *Showcasing Tribal Student Scholars*

**5:00 – 6:00** Cocktails and conversations

**6:00 – 9:00** Awards Banquet and keynote speaker

### Saturday, October 18

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**7:45 – 8:45** Breakfast – *New Deal Babies*

**9:00 – 2:00** Tours of Fort Peck

**2:00** – Buses return to the Cottonwood Inn. Conference concludes.





- **Moveable Feast:** Chere Jiusto, Executive Director of the Montana Preservation Alliance, will explore issues involved in relocating historic structures in *Moving and Reusing—Unusual Approaches to Preservation*. Rebecca R. Hanna, owner of the Terra Paleo Research firm, will detail one of the more unique case studies resulting from the building of Fort Peck Dam in *From Barge to Barn: Reincarnation of the Jefferson Dredge*. This session is made possible by a generous grant from the Montana Preservation Alliance.
- **Law and Order:** Michel Hogue, PhD candidate from the University of Wisconsin, will explore attempts in the 1870s and early 1880s to suppress the illegal cross-border whiskey trade in *Capturing Sheriff Healy: Métis Buffalo Hunters and the Law in the Milk River Country*. Alison K. Hoagland, Professor of History and Historic Preservation at Michigan Technological University, will explain how 19<sup>th</sup>-century forts reveal the army to be a place of innovation, decentralization, and disorderliness in *Hierarchy and Disorder: U.S. Army Fort Planning in the Northern Great Plains*.

#### 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Luncheon

- **The Literary Word:** Poet and educator Mandy Smoker Broadus, enrolled member of Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux tribes, and Joe McGeshick—historian, storyteller, and enrolled member of the Sokaogon Chippewa (Ojibwa) tribe—will share their own works as they discuss contemporary literature from the Fort Peck Reservation.

#### 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- **Native Healers:** Volney Steele, Bozeman physician and historian, will examine the unique story of *Dr. Charles Eastman: A Sioux Physician between Two Worlds*. Minerva Allen, Assiniboiné historian and educator, will consider *Native Healing with Plants on the Fort Belknap Reservation: A Contemporary Approach*. This session was made possible by a generous and ongoing grant from Volney Steele.



Dr. Charles Alexander Eastman, 1897 (Item No. BAE GN 03462A, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Museum Support Center, Suitland, MD)

- **Uncle Sam's New Deal:** Speakers will chronicle the role that three federal agencies played in 1930s Montana. Doug Melton, Lead Archaeologist for the Miles City Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, will detail *The Sheep Mountain Recreation Center: A Prairie County Resettlement Administration Project*. Halcyon La Point, Archaeologist with the Forest Service in Billings, will present *Good Deal! The CCC in the Custer National Forest*. William Vincent, Area Archaeologist with the Bureau of Reclamation in Billings, will highlight *The Bureau of Reclamation and Depression-Era Projects in Montana*.
- **Showcasing Student Scholars:** Representing the best and brightest of today's young historians from Montana's state universities, C. Riley Augé (UM) will highlight the evidence for and importance of *Folk Belief on the Western Frontier*. In *Connections and Fragmentation in the Blackfoot Valley*, Robin Patten (MSU) will explore diversity in resource use and beliefs about the land in this important watershed. Alicia Murphy (MSU) will examine the role that beasts of burden played in America's first national park, and how this influenced wildlife management, in *Domestic Animals in Early Yellowstone: A Changing Definition, a Changing Place*. This session was made possible by a generous grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

#### 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break

#### 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- **Constructing History:** Fredric Quivik, consulting historian of technology currently living in Pennsylvania, will provide an overview of the official townsites created by the Corps of Engineers and the shanty towns that sprang up around it in *Fort Peck and Its Shanty Towns: The Corps of Engineers Townsite Couldn't Have It All*. Rather than disperse the Fort Peck Corps of Engineers expertise after completion of the dam, engineers were employed in building airfields throughout Montana. Glasgow-area historian and former member of the Montana Historic Preservation Review Board James Rea will tell the rest of this story in *What's Next... Construction after the Dam*.

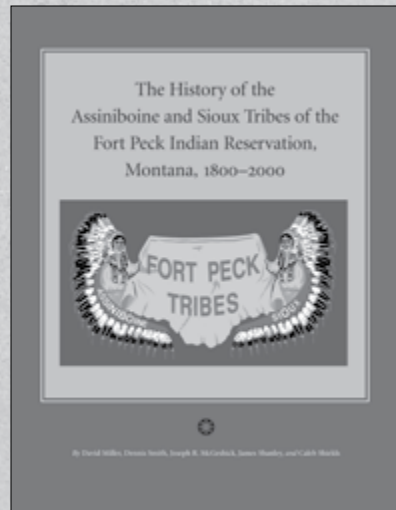


"Wheeler, Montana. Boom town of the Fort Peck construction era, now nearly deserted," March 1942 (Photograph by John Vachon, Library of Congress # LC-USF34- 065035-D)



- **Hard Deals and New Deals:** MHS Government Records Archivist Jeff Malcomson will use agricultural and population census data to highlight the coming of hard times to the northeastern corner of the state in *Montana's Depression by the Numbers: The Economic and Human Impact on Three Northeastern Counties*. Frank Johnson, who is currently working on his MA degree in history at MSU, will analyze the often contentious relations between one of the Treasure State's most formidable entities and the federal government in *The Montana Power Company and the New Deal*.

- **Showcasing Tribal Student Scholars:** Representing the high caliber of students attending Montana's seven tribal colleges, Ruth More (Fort Peck Community College) will discuss her recent research efforts. Donna Crawford and Shirley Gobert (Blackfeet Community College) will share their experience researching the *Fisher Flats Day School* on the Blackfeet Reservation. This session was made possible by a generous grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.



**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cocktails and Conversation**  
**6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Awards Banquet**


- In addition to the presentation of the prestigious Board of Trustees Award, the banquet will feature a keynote speech by Caleb Shields on the new, authoritative study of *The History of the Assiniboin and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana, 1800-2000*. Shields—one of the publication's principle authors—has had a long and active life in tribal affairs at both the local and national levels. He has served three terms as tribal chairman and twenty-four years on the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board. Shields is an enrolled Sioux of the Fort Peck Tribes and is the grandson of the last chief of the Fort Kipp Community, Chief Andrew Red Boy Shields.

## Saturday, October 18

**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Conference Registration**  
**7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast**

- **New Deal Babies:** A generation of New Deal babies were born during the Great Depression. Their parents had grown up in the Roaring Twenties, then suffered drought, bank failures, and other hard times until finding work under FDR's New Deal. Helenan Bernadine Abbott Hoduski—who is in the process of writing a social history on the people who built Fort Peck Dam—will share her ongoing research into this topic.

**9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

-  **Fort Peck Tour:** Buses will leave the Cottonwood Inn at 9:00 a.m. and take attendees to Fort Peck, site of the largest hydraulically filled dam in the world, and the largest earthen dam of any kind in the U.S. While there, everyone will enjoy guided tours of the Fort Peck town site with its Army Corps of Engineers-built theater and hotel; the remarkable Fort Peck Power Plant; the Lewis and Clark Overlook, whose impressive view of the dam spillway appeared on the cover of the first *Life* magazine; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Interpretive Center and Museum, which features wildlife, paleontology, and history exhibits, as well as the two largest aquariums in Montana. The morning's activities will conclude with a catered lunch at the Interpretive Center. These tours were made possible through the generous support of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Montana History Foundation.

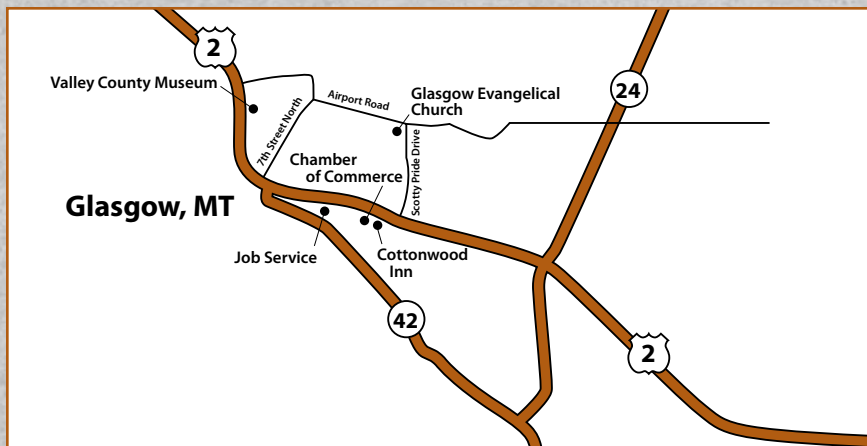


*President Franklin Delano Roosevelt touring Fort Peck, August 1934 (MHS Photograph Archives, Fort Peck Dam Collection Box 1, F2/15)*

**2:00 p.m.**

- Buses return to Cottonwood Inn. Conference concludes.





### Special thanks to our partners and supporters:

Betty Stone and the Cottonwood Inn and Suites  
 Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation  
 Diane Brandt and the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce  
 Michelle Fromdahl and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 Montana History Foundation  
 Montana Preservation Alliance  
 National Park Service "Preserve America"  
 Pioneer Museum/Valley County Historical Society  
 Volney Steele

**Save the date!** Plan now to join us for future history conferences in  
 Great Falls, October 15-17, 2009  
 Glacier National Park, Fall 2010

### Mail registration form and payment to

History Conference  
 Montana Historical Society  
 PO Box 201201  
 Helena, MT 59620-1201  
 For conference questions call 406-444-4741  
 or email klambert@mt.gov

Full conference registration includes admission to all sessions, breaks, workshops, Thursday night program and reception, Friday breakfast, lunch and banquet, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and transportation to and from Fort Peck on Saturday. All amounts are US currency.

*Cover photographs: Front: Men posed with re-bar, November 25, 1936 (MHS Photograph Archives, Fort Peck Dam Collection Box 1 F6 9)*

*Back "Grasshopper Shot Near Fort Peck Dam" (MHS Photograph Archives, Postcard Collection)*

Register on-line at <http://mhs.mt.gov/museum/historyconference2008.asp> or complete this form and return it to the address on the facing page:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Box No: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any dietary restrictions (i.e. vegetarian, kosher, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### Early Registration (By September 30)

Regular ..... \$115.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 College Student (ID required) ..... \$55.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Middle/high school student (meals **not** included) ..... free \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHS Prospector Members or higher membership levels, call 406-444-2918 for discount information.

### Late Registration (After September 30)

Regular ..... \$135.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 College Student (ID required) ..... \$75.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Middle/high school student (meals **not** included) ..... free \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHS Prospector Members or higher membership levels, call 406-444-2918 for discount information.

### Additional options

Workshops are included in the registration for participants who are registering for the full conference. However please indicate which workshops you plan to attend; the Photography workshop is limited to 16 participants. To attend workshops only, without registering for the rest of the conference, the fee is \$25.00 per workshop.

### Thursday morning

	Free for Conference Attendees	Non-attendee
• <i>Best Practices for Teaching Montana History</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____
• <i>When Preservation Gets Political and Preserving "Ugly"</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____
• <i>Disaster Preparedness Basics for Archival Collections</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____

### Thursday afternoon

• <i>Cultural Survival of the Fittest</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____
• <i>Creative Mitigation and Preservation Grant Funding</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____
• <i>Basic Preservation and Care of Historic Quilts and Clothing</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____
• <i>Photographing Historic Sites (limit 16)</i> .....	_____	25.00 \$ _____

### Single day registration

• Friday only (includes meals) .....	\$70.00	\$ _____
• Saturday only (includes meals and transportation to and from Fort Peck) .....	\$70.00	\$ _____

Banquet tickets for Friday night ..... \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed ☐

MasterCard, Visa, or Discover # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE

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Montana Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620-1201



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